UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/729
17 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 89

TRAINING AND RESEARCH

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walter BALZAN (Malta)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled:

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(b) United Nations University"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a general discussion of the item at its 15th, 41st and 42nd meetings, on 15 October, 17 and 18 November, and in particular of sub-item (a) at its 41st and 42nd meetings, on 17 and 18 November 1992. The general discussion of sub-item (b) was held at the 15th meeting, on 15 October. Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 47th and 51st meetings on 30 November and 16 December and on sub-item (b) at the 44th and 48th meetings, on 20 November and 7 December. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/47/SR.15, 41, 42, 44, 47, 48 and 51). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 5 to 8 October (see A/C.2/47/SR.3-9).

92-82854 0945P (E) 181292 201292

/...

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Document under the item as a whole

(a) Letter dated 2 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a position paper on the new world order prepared by the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (A/47/312-S/24238);

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research

(b) Report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/47/14); 1/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/47/458);

(b) United Nations University

(c) Report of the Council of the United Nations University (January-December 1991) (A/47/31). 2/

4. At the 15th meeting, on 15 October, the Rector of the United Nations University made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/47/SR.15).

5. At the 41st meeting, on 17 November, introductory statements were made by the Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Public Affairs, and the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (see A/C.2/47/SR.41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.43 and L.65

6. At the 44th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ghana, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of

---

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/47/14).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 31 (A/47/31).

Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago, subsequently joined by China, Portugal and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/47/L.43), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2951 (XXVII) of 11 December 1972 on the establishment of the United Nations University,

"Recalling also its resolution 45/220 of 21 December 1990 on the United Nations University,

"Taking cognizance of the contributions of the University and the relevance of its work to the concerns of the United Nations,

"Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1991 3/ and the statement made by the Rector of the University before the Second Committee on 15 October 1992 4/ concerning the activities of the University in 1992 and its plans for the future,

"Noting with appreciation the financial and other contributions made by Governments and organizations in support of the University,

"Stressing the need to enhance the visibility of the University and its management,

"Taking note of decision 4.3.2 adopted on 27 May 1992 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and thirty-ninth session,

"1. Takes note of the progress made in the University's overall activities within the framework of its second medium-term perspective, for 1990-1995;

"2. Welcomes the completion of the permanent headquarters building in Tokyo made available to the University by the Government of Japan;

"3. Takes note of the progress of the work of the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University, in Finland, the Institute for New Technologies of the United Nations University, in the Netherlands, and the Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Venezuela;

3/ Ibid.

4/ See A/C.2/47/SR.15.

"4. Welcomes:

"(a) The establishment of the International Institute for Software Technology of the United Nations University in Macau, under the joint sponsorship of the Government of China, the Government of Portugal and the Territory of Macau;

"(b) The progress made in the negotiations towards the establishment of the Research and Training Centre on Governance, State and Society, in Spain;

"(c) The intention of the Government of Ghana to host the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa;

"(d) The initiation of the activities of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Japan;

"5. Stresses the need, in the light of the University's institutional development, to maintain and enhance the programming and coordinating role of the University Centre with a view to ensuring the overall coherence and organic integrity of University activities;

"6. Takes note of the important contributions made by the University to the work of the United Nations, in particular its input into Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 5/ and encourages the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to avail themselves of the research capacity and research results of the University, which should come to serve as the academic arm of the United Nations through its global network of research and training centres and programmes;

"7. Requests the University to pursue its efforts:

"(a) To enhance its visibility, notably through selection of timely and important research topics, such as the Plan of Action for Academic Initiatives at the United Nations Headquarters Building, launched by the Rector, intensified coordination and cooperation with other United Nations bodies, wider dissemination of its research results, and expanded collaboration with an even wider international academic community of institutions and scholars, particularly in developing countries;

"(b) To keep under review the management and administrative functions of the University, particularly with a view to ensuring their efficiency and economy;

5/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), vols. I, II and Corr.1, and III.

"(c) To foster its substantive collaboration with other research and training institutes within and outside the United Nations system;

"8. Invites the Council of the University:

"(a) To intensify its efforts to promote the University's activities and increase its visibility;

"(b) To continue to contribute to the effective management of the University, including the administration of its funds;

"(c) To study the possibility of reducing the frequency of its meetings, in the interests of efficiency and economy;

"9. Requests the University vigorously to continue its fund-raising efforts, particularly the effort to increase its Endowment Fund, and appeals to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund."

7. At its 48th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/47/L.65), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.43.

8. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.65 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Tunisia made a statement (see A/C.2/47/SR.48).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.65, draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.43 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.60 and Rev.1 and L.91

12. At the 47th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Sudan, Uganda and Vanuatu, subsequently joined by Mali, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/47/L.60), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 41/172 of 5 December 1986, 42/197 of 11 December 1987, 43/201 of 20 December 1988, 44/175 of 19 December 1989, 45/219 of 21 December 1990 and 46/180 of 19 December 1991,

"Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General 6/ and of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 7/ and taking into account the statements made before the Second Committee on the Institute,

"Recognizing the steps taken by the Secretary-General to restructure the Institute for the purpose of implementing in New York and Geneva innovative and cost-effective programmes that would respond to the new challenges facing the United Nations,

"Acknowledging that a restructured Institute should continue, as a distinct and separate entity, to satisfy the growing training needs of Member States and the staff in the United Nations system, including the intersectoral analysis, assessment and policy-making issues related to sustainable development in order to develop a more structured relationship with national and international institutions,

"Further acknowledging the continued relevance of the Institute in providing training in multilateral diplomacy, including negotiation and conflict-resolution training (economic, commercial, political, environmental, etc.), natural resource management and operational activities, peace-keeping and peacemaking in close collaboration with all United Nations departments and offices concerned, optimal utilization of information systems and accessibility to United Nations data banks by all States, and programmes aimed at enhancing the conceptual understanding of the new integrated approaches to global problems where the United Nations is called upon to provide solutions across the political, economic and social spectrum, and, upon request, to identify training needs which are not met by other bodies within the United Nations system,

"1. Decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research building will be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of its debt and that coverage of its financial obligations for 1992 as well as the cost of all transitional arrangements will be assumed by the United Nations; in the event that the headquarters

---

6/ A/47/458.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/47/14).

of the Institute are moved to Geneva, a streamlined office for training purposes will be retained in New York, in accordance with the recommendation of the high-level consultant and approved by the Board of Trustees;

"2. Further decides that the New York office should be given the necessary facilities and sufficient authority to accommodate fully the proven training programmes designed to meet the needs of member States in the fields of multilateral diplomacy, peace-keeping, peace-building and peacemaking, full-time senior fellows conducting research activities, and of the restructured programmes in economic and social training organized in cooperation with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank;

"3. Also decides that the funding of the Institute's administrative budget and training programmes will in future be covered from voluntary contributions, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads, but that in 1993, during the transitional period, arrangements will be made for the provision of a grant from the United Nations regular budget to carry out the programmes referred to above;

"4. Similarly decides that the cost of training programmes made at the specific request of the United Nations and of other United Nations organs and specialized agencies should be covered by the requesting organizations;

"5. Further decides that the proposal of the Secretary-General to work out a closer association between the Institute and the Turin Training Centre for the purpose of transferring the bulk of training activities to Turin needs further examination in order to ensure that such a transfer is genuinely cost-effective, financially sound and in the best interests of participating member States;

"6. Urges Member States to contribute to the General Fund of the restructured United Nations Institute for Training and Research so as to assure its viability, bearing in mind the uncertainty surrounding its future and the fact that the Institute has been left with an unacceptably low level of resources to conduct its training programmes;

"7. Requests the Institute to improve its cooperation with national and international institutions in the field of international relations and scientific analysis;

"8. Further urges United Nations funds and programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the United Nations Population Fund to improve their collaboration with the Institute in order to utilize better the Institute's expertise and comparative advantage in the field of training;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the arrangements set out above."

13. At its 51st meeting, on 16 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1), which had been submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60, joined by Mauritania, Mauritius and Sierra Leone. The revised draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 46/180 of 19 December 1991,

"Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General 8/ and of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 9/ and taking into account the statements made before the Second Committee on the Institute,

"Taking note of the steps taken by the Secretary-General to restructure the Institute for the purpose of implementing in New York and Geneva innovative and cost-effective programmes that would respond to the new challenges facing the United Nations and the need to meet the growing training requirements of Member States and staff in the United Nations system,

"Recognizing the need to enhance the overall capacity of the United Nations in research and data gathering,

"Acknowledging that a restructured Institute should continue to develop a more structured relationship with national and international institutions,

"Further acknowledging the continued relevance of the mandate of the Institute as contained in its statute,

"1. Decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, 10/ the building of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research will be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of the debt of the Institute and that coverage of its financial obligations for 1992 as well as the cost of all transitional arrangements will be assumed by the United Nations;

"2. Also decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the high-level consultant, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute, the New York Office should be streamlined, provided with the necessary facilities and staffed, at a minimum, by a Director, one

---

8/ A/47/458.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/47/14).

10/ A/47/458, sect. III.

General Service staff member, three full-time senior fellows and additional full-time senior fellows on a non-remuneration basis to undertake existing training programmes designed to meet the growing training needs in the fields of multilateral diplomacy, peace-keeping, peace-building and peacemaking and to conduct research, as well as to carry out the restructured programmes in economic and social training organized in cooperation with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank;

"3. Further decides that the funding of the Institute's administrative budget and training programmes will in future be covered from voluntary contributions, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads;

"4. Urges Member States to contribute to the restructured Institute, in particular to its General Fund so as to assure its viability;

"5. Similarly decides that the cost of training programmes made at the specific request of the United Nations and of other United Nations organs and specialized agencies should be covered by the requesting organizations;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to explore further closer cooperation between the Institute and other qualified national and international institutions including, inter alia, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation at Turin, in order to enable the United Nations system to respond to the increasing training needs at both the international and national levels in the most cost-effective manner and in the best interest of the participating Member States;

"7. Requests the Institute to improve its cooperation with national and international institutions in the field of international relations and scientific analysis;

"8. Further urges United Nations funds and programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the United Nations Population Fund to improve their collaboration with the Institute;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the above-mentioned arrangements."

14. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/47/L.81.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91, which had been submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman orally revised the sixth preambular paragraph by inserting the word "relevant" between the words "with" and "national".

16. A statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/47/L.94.

17. Before the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, and Mauritania (see A/C.2/47/SR.51).

18. At its 51st meeting, on 16 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

19. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the European Community (see A/C.2/47/SR.51).

20. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91, draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.60 and L.60/Rev.1 were withdrawn by the sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

21. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2951 (XXVII) of 11 December 1972 on the establishment of the United Nations University,

Recalling also its resolution 45/220 of 21 December 1990 on the United Nations University,

- Taking cognizance of the contributions of the University and the relevance of its work to the concerns of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1991 11/ and the statement made by the Rector of the University before the Second Committee on 15 October 1992 12/ concerning the activities of the University in 1992 and its plans for the future,

Noting with appreciation the financial and other contributions made by Governments and organizations in support of the University,

Stressing the need to enhance the visibility of the University and its management,

Taking note of decision 4.3.2 adopted on 27 May 1992 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and thirty-ninth session,

1. Takes note of the progress made in the University's overall activities within the framework of its second medium-term perspective, for 1990-1995;

2. Welcomes the completion of the permanent headquarters building in Tokyo made available to the University by the Government of Japan;

3. Takes note of the progress of the work of the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University, in Finland, the Institute for New Technologies of the United Nations University, in the Netherlands, and the Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Venezuela;

4. Welcomes:

(a) The establishment of the International Institute for Software Technology of the United Nations University in Macau, under the joint sponsorship of the Government of China, the Government of Portugal and the Territory of Macau;

(b) The progress made in the negotiations towards the establishment of the Research and Training Centre on Governance, State and Society, in Spain;

(c) The intention of the Government of Ghana to act as host to the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa;

(d) The initiation of the activities of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Japan;

11/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/47/31).

12/ See A/C.2/47/SR.15.

5. Stresses the need, in the light of the University's institutional development, to maintain and enhance the programming and coordinating role of the University Centre with a view to ensuring the overall coherence, organic integrity and universality of University activities;

6. Takes note of the valuable contributions made by the University to the work of the United Nations, including its input into Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 13/ and encourages the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to avail themselves of the research capacity and research results of the University, which should come to serve as one of the principal academic institutions of the United Nations through its global network of research and training centres and programmes;

7. Requests the University to pursue its efforts:

(a) To enhance its prominence, notably through selection of timely and important research topics, such as the Plan of Action for Academic Initiatives at the United Nations Headquarters Building, launched by the Rector, intensified coordination and cooperation with other United Nations bodies, wider dissemination of its research results, and expanded collaboration with an even wider international academic community of institutions and scholars, particularly in developing countries;

(b) To keep under review the management and administrative functions of the University, particularly with a view to ensuring their efficiency and economy;

(c) To foster its substantive collaboration with other research and training institutes within and outside the United Nations system;

8. Invites the Council of the University:

(a) To intensify its efforts to promote the University's activities and make them more widely and better known;

(b) To continue to contribute to the effective management of the University, including the administration of its funds;

(c) To study the possibility of reducing the frequency of its meetings, in the interests of efficiency and economy;

9. Requests the University to continue vigorously its fund-raising efforts, particularly the effort to increase its Endowment Fund, and appeals to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund.

13/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), vols. I, II and Corr.1, and III.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/180 of 19 December 1991,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General 14/ and of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 15/ and taking into account the statements made before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on the Institute,

Taking note of the steps taken by the Secretary-General to restructure the Institute,

Recognizing the continuing importance and relevance of the interdisciplinary training functions within the United Nations system and the need to respond to the new challenges facing the United Nations and to meet the growing training requirements of Member States and staff in the United Nations system,

Recognizing that, in the context of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations, the overall capacity of the United Nations in research and data gathering should be enhanced,

Acknowledging that a restructured Institute should continue to develop a more structured relationship with relevant national and international institutions,

Reaffirming that the Institute should focus on providing training programmes and research activities related to training,

1. Decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, 16/ the building of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research will be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of the debt of the Institute and coverage of its financial obligations for 1992;

2. Also decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the high-level consultant, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the Secretary-General in his report, the headquarters of the Institute

---

14/ A/47/458.

15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/47/14).

16/ A/47/458, sect. III.

will be transferred to Geneva, and requests the Secretary-General to designate a liaison officer to organize and coordinate the existing training programmes and research activities relating to training in New York within existing resources, drawing as appropriate on the services of senior fellows who shall be funded from voluntary contributions to the Institute;

3. Further decides that, as of 1 January 1993, the funding of all the Institute's administrative budget and training programmes will be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads;

4. Invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the restructured Institute, in particular to its General Fund so as to assure its viability;

5. Similarly decides that the cost of training programmes made at the specific request of Member States of the United Nations and other United Nations organs and specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to explore further closer cooperation between the Institute and other qualified national and international institutions including, inter alia, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation at Turin, in order to enable the United Nations system to respond to the increasing training needs at both the international and national levels in the most cost-effective manner and in the best interest of the participating Member States;

7. Invites the Secretary-General, in the context of the ongoing restructuring process of the United Nations, to continue his work on a comprehensive review of the research capacity of the United Nations system and to make proposals for the enhancement of that capacity, including the possibility of transferring the non-training related research functions of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to other appropriate United Nations bodies such as the United Nations University and the possibility of promoting cooperation mechanisms with other relevant national and international research institutes;

8. Invites the Institute to improve its cooperation with relevant national, regional and international institutions which can contribute to fulfilling its training and related research needs in the field of international relations and in response to the new challenges facing the United Nations;

9. Urges the Institute to improve its collaboration with the United Nations and its funds and programmes;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the above-mentioned arrangements.